

REMARKS

Applicants are filing this Response within the shortened statutory period. Consequently, Applicants believe that no fee is due with this filing; however, if a fee is due please charge Deposit Account No. 502295.

Claims 1-11 were presented for examination. The Office Action mailed September 26, 2007 rejects claims 1-10 and allows claim 11. Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein. Claims 1-11 remain pending in the application.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,434,752 to Huth et al. (hereafter “Huth”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to the extent that it is maintained in light of the claim amendments made herein because the cited reference does not teach every element of Applicants’ claimed invention.

Applicants’ claim 1 as now set forth recites a “module housing” instead of a “housing” to more clearly indicate that the recited housing encloses components of the system identification module but not components of the communications system. Claim 1 now also recites that the module connector is “secured to the module housing and electrically coupled to the persistent memory, the module connector adapted for attachment to and removal from the communications system at the backplane connector.” Support for the amendment can be found at least in FIGS. 2 and 3 and at paragraphs 00015, 00016 and 00018 of Applicants’ specification.

The Office Action states that Huth teaches a housing, as shown by element 12 in FIG. 1 of Huth. Applicants point out that the housing shown and described in Huth serves as an enclosure for all internal components of the electronics system including, for example, circuit boards or the adaptor modules discussed in Huth. In contrast, Applicants' amended claim 1 now more clearly recites how Applicants' module housing is limited to enclosing components of the system identification module, including the persistent memory. In further distinction, the housing disclosed in Huth cannot be secured to a connector which is also attachable to and removable from a communications system at another connector (i.e., the backplane connector). Thus Applicants submit that Huth does not teach or suggest Applicants' recited module housing with all its limitations.

The Office Action also states that Huth teaches a persistent memory for storing data as shown in col. 4, lines 56-58. Applicants respectfully disagree. Huth teaches an "expansion memory board for expanding the random access memory (RAM) of the system." The persistent memory recited by Applicants provides non-volatile data storage unlike the RAM described in Huth. RAM does not retain information when RAM is turned off or recycled. One would not want to use RAM as described in Huth to store Applicants' system specific data as the data would be lost when the communications system power is turned off. Thus Applicants submit that Huth does not teach or suggest a persistent memory for storing system specific data associated with a communications system.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Huth does not teach or suggest every limitation of Applicants' invention as now set forth in independent claim 1 and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn. Claims 2, 3 and 8 depend from allowable independent claim 1, and incorporate all

of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore Applicants submit that these dependent claims are also patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for at least those reasons provided in connection with claim 1, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) also be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 4-7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huth. The Office Action rejects claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huth in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,742,475 to Kaiser et al. The Office Action rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,920,527 to Cloutier et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Dependent claims 4-7, 9 and 10 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. As these dependent claims depend from an allowable base claim and incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim, Applicants submit that claims 4-7, 9 and 10 are allowable based on the reasons provided above in connection with claim 1. Thus Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4-7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims that have not been expressed.

In view of the remarks made herein, Applicants submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests early favorable action by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicant's representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003.

Respectfully submitted,

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